

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS: PERM REP'S STATEMENT IN
SECURITY COUNCIL

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE BY PANAMANIAN
PERM REP BOYD IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON JANUARY 12, 1976:

QUOTE MR. BOYD (PANAMA) (INTERPRETATION FROM SPANISH): SINCE
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS MET IN 1976,
I SHOULD LIKE ON BEHALF OF MY DELEGATION CORDIALLY TO GREET
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL AND THE MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT. IT IS SYMBOLIC
THAT WE BEGIN OUR WORK THIS YEAR UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, AMBASSADOR SALIM AHMED SALIM.
ALL OF US ARE AWARE OF THE INTENSE EFFORTS HE HAS DEPLOYED IN
THE TASK OF LIBERATING AFRICA AND SOLVING ALL THE PROBLEMS
CONNECTED WITH COLONIALISM AND THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE.

IN 1976 MY COUNTRY WILL CELEBRATE THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE CONGRESS WHICH WAS CONVENED IN PANAMA BY SIMON BOLIVAR
AND WHICH HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS THE FIRST DEMONSTRATION IN
THE HISTORY OF MANKIND OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND CO-
OPERATION. PANAMA'S PRESENCE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT THIS
TIME HAS PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE, THEREFORE.

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WE ARE HERE BECAUSE OF THE GENEROSITY OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE
LATIN AMERICAN GROUP IN THE UNITED NATIONS. AT THIS DECISIVE

MOMENT OF ITS HISTORY, PANAMA NEEDED TO OCCUPY THIS IMPORTANT PLACE IN ORDER BETTER TO DEFEND ITS POSITION OF EFFECTIVE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE, A GOAL FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF WHICH WE HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING RELENTLESSLY.

WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BRILLIANT WORK WHICH HAS BEEN DONE BY THE DISTINGUISHED DELEGATION OF THE SISTER REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA, AND WE ARE HONOURED NOW TO TAKE ITS PLACE. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO THANK ITS REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR FERNANDO SALAZAR.

PANAMA IS A PEACE-LOVING NATION AND IN THIS COUNCIL IT WILL FULLY DISCHARGE ITS DUTY TO WORK FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WE ARE A COUNTRY WITH AN INTERNATIONAL VOCATION, A COUNTRY WHICH WISHES TO ENTERTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES OF THE WORLD. THE LEADER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT, GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS, IS NOW IN CUBA ON A GOODWILL VISIT AND HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO CAPTURE THE SYMPATHY AND THE SOLIDARITY OF THE BROAD MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES IN AMERICA AND IN THE THIRD WORLD BECAUSE OF HIS INDEPENDENT AND WORTHY FOREIGN POLICY, THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRANSLATED INTO THE UNITY OF THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTINENT IN THE DEFENCE OF OUR CAUSE WHICH CONSTITUTES A PROBLEM OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

I HAVE TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON THIS TOPIC BECAUSE WE SHOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE OF OUR TERM OF MEMBERSHIP AT THIS MEETING TO INDICATE THE FACT THAT THERE ARE VERY CLEAR SYMPTOMS IN MY COUNTRY THAT THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE WILL CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF THE MOST SENSITIVE CENTRES OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THE MEETINGS HELD BY THE COUNCIL IN PANAMA IN MARCH 1973 DID CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING PEACE IN THE REGION, IT IS NONE THE LESS TRUE THAT WE HAVE AS YET BEEN UNABLE TO REACH A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE CANAL ZONE BECAUSE THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE UNITED STATES TOWARDS RECOGNITION OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF MY COUNTRY OVER THE CANAL ZONE HAVE NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT. THEREFORE IT SHOULD SURPRISE NO ONE THAT PANAMA

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WILL SUPPORT THE PRESENCE OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION IN THE DEBATE WE BEGIN TODAY.

WE BELIEVE THAT THEIR PRESENCE WITH US IS FULLY JUSTIFIABLE, SINCE THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION IS THE AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE AND SINCE IT HAS BEEN SO RECOGNIZED IN RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE PAST. ONCE AGAIN, IT IS A PLEASURE FOR US TO EXPRESS OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION SO THAT IT MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE DEBATE ON

MATTERS TOUCHING ON THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE IN THAT AREA OF TENSION.

I DO NOT WISH TO EXTEND THIS PROCEDURAL DEBATE, BUT WE SHOULD
LIKE TO INDICATE THE FACT THAT, IN OUR VIEW, THE PALESTINE
LIBERATION ORGANIZATION DOES INDEED HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE
REPRESENTED WHEN ANY QUESTIONS IN THIS CONNEXION ARE DEBATED
IN ANY OF THE BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND THAT IT MAY
PARTICIPATE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH OTHER STATES.

PANAMA, WHICH IS STRUGGLING FOR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE PANAMA CANAL
ZONE AND WHICH IS READY TO CLAIM ITS INALIENABLE RIGHTS OVER
ITS TERRITORY BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS, MUST ACT IN CONFORMITY
WITH THIS POSITION. THUS IT IS A PLEASURE FOR US ENTHUSIASTICALLY
TO SUPPORT THE LEGITIMATE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS TO THEIR
OWN HOMELAND IN THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, WITHOUT THEREBY
SIGNIFYING THAT PANAMA IS MODIFYING ITS POSITION WITH REGARD
TO THE RIGHT OF STATES OF THE MIDDLE EAST TO LIVE IN PEACE
WITHIN SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS. UNQUOTE
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